

We are a family of 12. We adopted 10 of these individuals and we are guardians for them. They range in age from 46 to 25. One child is a grandchild who we are raising and we are his guardian, he is only 8 years old. Ten of our members must rely on supported health care. They are disabled either due to mental health issues , heart conditions, epilepsy, cerebral palsy , intellectual disabilities, severe optical conditions, the list goes on.

These individuals are being followed by physicians, therapists, surgeons who we have known and trusted throughout their brief lives. It has taken years to build this type of relationship with these providers. In addition, 7 of these young adults are now living in group homes and going to either Day Habilitation facilities or are on work crews with assistance. Again, it has taken years to research and find the appropriate living arrangements where these individuals can continue to function in the community to their full potential. Our Mental Health and Developmental Disability coordinator has been with us for almost 20 years. All of these relationships and programs are being threatened by the program that Governor Branstad is trying to push on Iowa. Please help Iowa stay strong. These individuals lives matter ! I would like the opportunity to speak to represent the other families in Iowa who have also chosen to adopt and find their children in this mess. Thank you.

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